



April 18, 2006

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

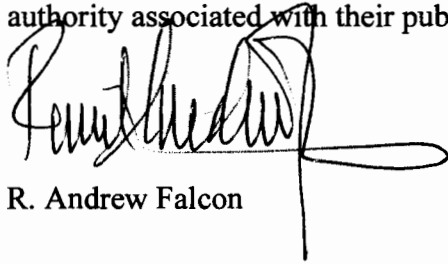
SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance by NASA Attendees at the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) Foundation on April 28, 2006

On April 28, 2006, the Achievement Rewards for College Scientists (ARCS) foundation will sponsor its 2006 Eagle Award Gala at the Galleria at Lafayette Centre in Washington, DC. The ARCS Foundation, a Section 501(c)(3) non-profit organization, is dedicated to providing financial assistance to students of great achievement and promise – those who can make a significant contribution to the scientific and technological strength of the nation. The Metropolitan Washington Chapter provides scholarships to outstanding students, including women and minorities, attending local area universities. The purpose of the scholarships is to help meet a critical need in the United States for engineers and scientists. At this year's event, the Eagle Award will be presented to Senator Ted Stevens as an individual whose efforts and interests have supported the mission of the ARCS Foundation.

The event will be widely attended by approximately 250 to 300 people from a wide variety of areas including aeronautics industry, other Federal Government agencies, members of Congress, and academia. The estimated cost of the event, which includes all food and beverages, is \$130 per person. ARCS members may purchase tickets for \$275; tickets for non-members are \$500 or more depending on sponsorship level. Although member corporations provide open seating at their tables to accommodate guests invited by ARCS, the ARCS is solely responsible for selecting, inviting, and seating of NASA guests. NASA employees will have the opportunity to discuss the common goal of furthering the education of future engineers and scientists who may work in areas of aeronautics and space.

I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event so that NASA invitees and their spouse or guest may attend the event without charge. However, NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Because a silent auction is included in this event, we remind attendees that pursuant to 5 CFR § 2635.308, NASA employees may not participate in fundraising in an official capacity. Nor should any NASA employees use or permit the use of their official title, position, or any authority associated with their public office to further any fundraising effort.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Andrew Falcon", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

R. Andrew Falcon